

REMARKS

In the Action, claim 21-92 are rejected. In response, claim 51 is amended to correct the clerical error noted in the Action. Independent claims 21, 37, 47, 53, 69 and 82 are amended to recite the recording/reproducing apparatus being a combination device comprising a storage device, a recording/reproducing unit and an optical disk as in original claims 31, 63 and 76. Claims 31, 63 and 76 are cancelled. In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Rejections

Claims 21-29, 31-40, 42, 43, 47, 52-60, 62-66, 69-72, 74-79, 82-84 and 89-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0149988 to Ellis et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0010523 to Sezan et al. Ellis et al. is cited for disclosing a request signal having a menu display. Sezan et al. is cited for disclosing an image corresponding to a program.

Ellis et al. does not disclose or suggest a method of accessing a video and/or audio program among programs stored in a recording/reproducing apparatus or a video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus is a combination device as in the claimed invention. Ellis et al. is primarily directed to an interactive television program guide system for reviewing channels and programs on the selected channels being broadcast by a cable or satellite network. Ellis et al. does not disclose or suggest a unit or device that corresponds to the claimed “combo-device” of the present invention. Ellis et al. refers only to various elements but does not suggest a combination unit or device as in the present invention. In addition, the combo device recited in claim 31 of the present invention selectively stores data on the storage device and disk. In contrast, the device disclosed in Ellis et al. transmits the video signal to the television (TV) passing through the set-top box and the secondary storage device in a series. Accordingly,

the device of Ellis et al. differs from the combo device recited in claim 31 of the present invention.

Ellis et al. fails to disclose receiving a request signal to access video and/or audio programs among the programs stored in the apparatus and displaying a program list comprising information of the programs and an image corresponding to each of the programs. The passages referred to in the Action relate to the broadcasting program list which identifies the channels from the broadcast source and the program being broadcast on each of the channels. For example, paragraph 0117 relates to the interactive television program guide accessed by the menu key on the remote control unit. The program guide displays a display screen according to the programs being broadcast on the selected channels. As noted in the Action, Ellis et al. does not disclose an image being displayed corresponding to the programs.

Sezan et al. relates generally to a thumbnail set of frames of the program views. Sezan et al. does not relate to a video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus or selecting a program by receiving a request access the programs, displaying a program list containing information of the video and/or audio program and an image corresponding to each one of the video or audio programs. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the broadcasting program of Ellis et al. to display an image corresponding to each one of the video and/or audio programs as in the claimed invention. Accordingly, the independent claims are not obvious over the combination of Ellis et al. and Sezan et al.

The dependent claims are also allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and for reciting additional features of the inventions. The cited patents do not disclose displaying a still image corresponding to the video and/or audio program as in claim 22 and 23, displaying a program list including title information, recording date information and reproducing time information and the image corresponding to the program as in claim 24, displaying the program list and the images as in claim 25, displaying the program list in a predetermined order as in

claim 26, the information regarding the programs including one or more of the title information, recording date information and reproducing time information as in claim 27, displaying the images in a predetermined order of the information as in claim 28, displaying the information in the manner of claim 29 in combination with the features of claim 21.

Ellis et al. and Sezan et al. also do not disclose the apparatus being a combination device having a storage device, a recording and reproducing unit connected to the storage device and an optical disk recording and reproducing unit as in claim 31, the apparatus receiving video and/or audio program from a plurality of video and audio program sources as in claim 32, the programs being stored in the storage device associated with the video recording reproducing apparatus as in claim 33, receiving the request signal from an external input device as in claim 34, storing the video and/or audio programs in the apparatus where the data is compressed as in claim 35 or the data of being stored in a MPEG format. The claims depending from independent claims 37, 47, 53, 69 and 82 are also allowable for these reasons and for depending from an allowable base claim.

Claims 31, 41, 61 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ellis et al. in view of Sezan et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,055,167 to Masters. Masters is cited for disclosing a display screen using a user input to facilitate editing.

Masters is directed to a personal video recording method for selectively recording programs that are broadcast from a broadcasting source. Masters discloses a menu which corresponds to the programs being broadcast at selected times. The menu can be edited by the user to select programs being broadcast and that may be desired to be recorded. Masters does not relate to a visual or audio recording reproducing apparatus where a menu displays a list of the video and/or audio programs stored in the apparatus. The display image refers only to the programs being broadcast that may be selected by the user for recording or viewing. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method and

apparatus of Ellis et al. and Sezan et al. to request a signal to edit information corresponding to the stored video and/or audio programs and displaying an input screen to facilitate editing of the information as in claim 30, 41, 61 and 73. Accordingly, these claims are not obvious over the combination of the cited patents.

Claims 44-46, 48-51, 68, 80, 81 and 85-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ellis et al., in view of Sezan et al. and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0078807 to Fries et al. Fries et al. is cited for disclosing a menu comprising one or more of a digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenu corresponding to the respective functions of the apparatus.

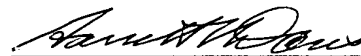
Fries et al. is directed to a system for providing electronic program guides from multiple sources. Fries et al. does not disclose receiving a request signal to display a menu from a plurality of major functions from a video recording reproducing apparatus as in the claimed invention and displaying a menu of one or more of the digital recorder, juke box player and photo album corresponding to the functions of the video recording reproducing apparatus. Ellis et al. only discloses a program guide from a particular source, but does not disclose a plurality of functions or displaying a menu of a function corresponding to the video recording reproducing apparatus. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method and apparatus of Ellis et al. and Sezan et al. to receive a request signal to display a menu to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording reproducing apparatus and displaying the menu of one or more of the digital recorder, juke box player and photo album submenus corresponding to the functions of the video recording reproducing apparatus as in claim 44-46, 49-51, 68, 81, 82 and 85-88. Claim 48 is also allowable as depending from allowable claim 47 and for reciting the programs being stored in a compressed format.

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ellis et al. in view of Sezan et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 to LaJoie et al.

Claim 67 is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and for reciting the additional features of the invention. LaJoie et al. relates to an interactive program guide with a default selection control for use with a cable television system. LaJoie et al. does not suggest a video and/or audio apparatus for accessing a video and/or audio program having interface unit receiving an input signal and a main control unit providing a program list of information and an image corresponding to each of the programs and accessing the video program where the apparatus includes a tuner, switching unit, input/output control unit, video decoder, audio ad converter, an encoder, a data management unit, an audio da converter and a video encoder. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the system of Ellis et al. and Sezan et al. in the manner of the claimed invention. Thus, claim 67 is not obvious over the combination of the cited patents.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett V. Davis
Reg. No. 32,023

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076

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